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NEWS RELEASE

Feb. 13, 2006

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UM LECTURE TO DISCUSS NECESSITY OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS

MISSOULA —

Freedom-of-religion crusader Kevin “Seamus” Hasson will speak at The University of Montana School of Law on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Hasson will present “Religious Liberty” from noon to 1 p.m. in the School of Law Castles Center. The event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

The lecture is sponsored by the UM law chapter of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies, a national network of legal scholars who examine the balance of power between the federal government and states.

Hasson is the founder and president of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a bipartisan, interfaith, public-interest law firm that protects the free expression of all religious traditions.

During the last decade, Hasson and Becket Fund have successfully represented clients from nearly every faith, including Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs, Hindus, American Indian religions, Unitarians and Zoroastrians. The firm has earned praise from thinkers as diverse as Pope John Paul II and humanitarian Elie Wiesel.

Hasson has been quoted widely in national publications such as Newsweek, US News

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and World Report, The New York Times and the Washington Post, among others. He's also appeared twice on Al-Jazeera television debating Saudi clerics.

He also lectures and debates widely, making an average of two appearances per month in venues ranging from Oxford and Harvard to the Vatican. His article "Religious Liberty: A Tale of Two Declarations" appeared in The Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy, and he is author of "The Right to be Wrong: Ending the Culture War Over Religion in America."

Before founding the Becket Fund in 1994, Hasson was an attorney at Williams & Connolly in Washington, D.C., where he focused on liberty litigation. From 1986 to 1987, he served in the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he advised the White House and cabinet departments on church-state relations.

He is a 1985 magna cum laude graduate of Notre Dame Law School. He also holds a master's degree in theology from Notre Dame.

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